To increase the production and productivity of sugarcane in the country, Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) in different States subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture since April 2004.

A Technology Mission on Cotton is under implementation in the cotton growing States of the country since 2000-01 for increasing the productivity and production of cotton by focusing on increasing availability of cotton seeds, covering more area under hybrids, thrust for evolving area specific technology, popularization of integrated pest management, increasing efficient use of irrigation water, field demonstrations for transfer of technology to farmers and farmers' training.

**Shortfall in agricultural production**

132. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the shortfall in agricultural production every year resulting in shortage of foodgrains in our country; and

(b) the steps/measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to increase the agricultural production to meet the needs of our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The agricultural production in the country has been increasing in the recent past. As compared to total production of 208.60 million tones during 2005-06 and 217.28 million tones during 2006-07, the estimated production of foodgrains during 2007-08 and 2008-09 (3rd Advance Estimates) stood at 230.78 million tones and 229.85 million tones respectively. As the estimated demand of foodgrains during 2008-09 is only 219.01 million tonnes against estimated production of 229.85 million tonnes, there is no shortage of foodgrains in the country.

In order to further increase the production of wheat, rice and pulses, the Government has introduced National Food Security Mission (NFSM) since November 2007. It aims at adding the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan, *i.e.*, by 2011-12 through area increase and productivity enhancement in targeted districts. Besides, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Youjana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States to increase investment in agriculture and allied sector has been launched.

In order to increase the production of cereals in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat) and Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals)" subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October 2000 are under implementation to provide more flexibility to States based on local needs.

In order to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is being implemented since 01.04.2004.

To increase the production and productivity of sugarcane in the country, Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) in different States subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture since April 2004.

A Technology Mission on Cotton is under implementation in the cotton growing States of the country since 2000-01 for increasing the productivity and production of cotton by focusing on increasing availability of cotton seeds, covering more area under hybrids, thrust for evolving area specific technology, popularization of integrated pest management, increasing efficient use of irrigation water, field demonstrations for transfer of technology to farmers and farmers' training.

**Production of foodgrain**

133. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrain production has risen to 0.9 per cent and is expected to turn growth of 2.6 per cent;

(b) if so, whether rice production has been projected at a record 99.37 MT from 98.89 MT pegged in the second advance estimate released in February;

(c) if so, whether inspite of increase in agriculture growth, India needs 40 per cent more foodgrains by 2025 from the present level to feed huge population which is likely to grow to 1.3 billion by then; and

(d) whether in view of improved position of wheat, Government is likely to open up wheat export soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Madam. The production of foodgrains during 2008-09 is estimated at 229.85 million tonnes (3rd Advance Estimates released on 8th May 2009) as compared to the estimated production of 230.78 million tonnes during 2007-08, *i.e.*, a decline of 0.4%. According to the Revised Estimates released by the Central Statistical Organization, the growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Agriculture and Allied Sector during 2008-09 is estimated at 1.6% as against the earlier Advance Estimates of 2.6%.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) The requirement of foodgrains by the year 2025 has not been projected. However, based on GDP growth rate of 7% and per capita growth rate of 5.5%, the National Development Council (NDC) Sub-Group on Demand and Supply has projected total demand of 252.80 million tonnes of foodgrains for 2020 as against the projected demand of 219.00 million tonnes of foodgrains for 2008-09, *i.e.*, an increase of 15.43%.